TELL IT TO THE GOD OF LOVE

Chapter 2

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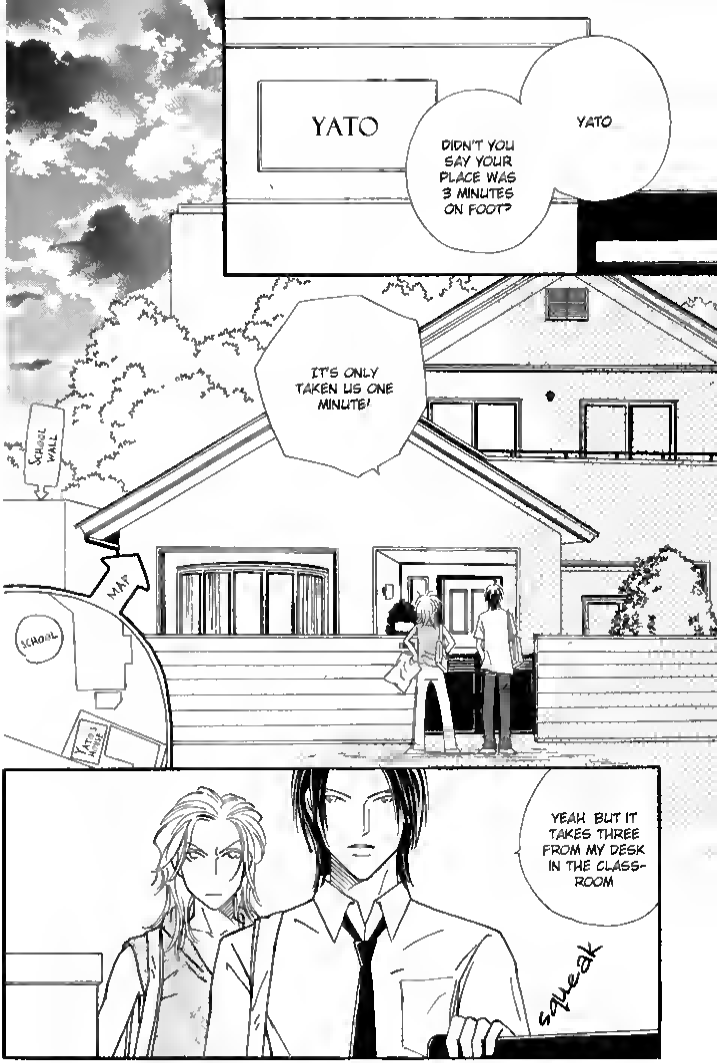
CHAPTER 2


YATO
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR PLACE WAS 3 MINUTES ON FOOT?
YATO
IT'S ONLY TAKEN US ONE MINUTE!
SCHOOL HALL
MAT
SCHOOL
YEAH BUT IT TAKES THREE FROM MY DESK IN THE CLASS-ROOM
squeak

YOU ACTUALLY THINK ANY-ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT?
NAH, PURE COINCI-DENCE
I BET YOU ONLY CHOSE THIS SCHOOL BECAUSE IT'S SO CLOSE
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO BOTHER CHANGING INTO DRY CLOTHES BEFORE CO-MING OVER
Yes?
It's me
OPEN
SHUT
GUESS NOT
I GET IT NOW
THAT'S WHY YOU KEEP SWIMMING TILL LATE, BECAUSE YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING HOME AFTERWARDS
RUN
WELCOME HOME!
RUN

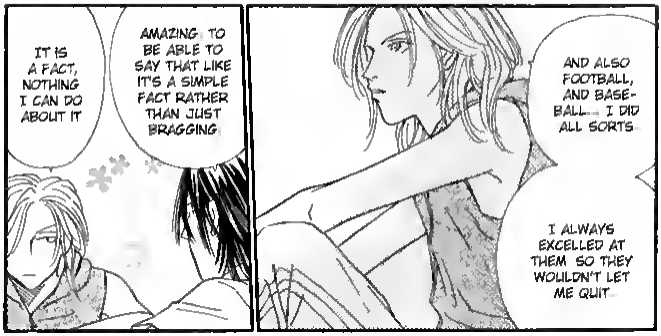
...
...
MUMMY! MAKO-CHAN'S BROUGHT HOME ANOTHER NEW GIRLFRIEND!
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK
STAARE
A NEW GIRLFRIEND WITH LONG HAIR!
WRONG.
HE'S RYUUZAKI SACHIO, AND A GUY. BE NICE TO HIM.
A guy ?!
SHOCK
Hey

WHAT OF IT, SA-CHAN?
OPEN
MAKO-CHAN
...
mumm
step
step
SHE THINKS EVERY GIRL WHO COMES IS AUTOMATICALLY A GIRLFRIEND.
ANOTHER NEW GIRL-FRIEND.
mumm
HUH... SOUNDS LIKE YOU BRING A LOT OF GIRLS OVER.
They all say they envy me but then after taking one look they just laugh and go home again
THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS ALL THINK IT'S FUNNY THAT I LIVE SO CLOSE, SO THEY PESTER ME TO LET THEM COME ROUND.
YEAH, I CAN IMAGINE.

MY MUM LOVES CUTTING EDGE TECHNO-LOGY
THIS ONE'LL EVEN DO THE DISHES.
YOU'RE KIDDING!
YUP.
...
whirrr
YOU SURE THIS'LL WORK? MY FAMILY USUALLY SENDS SCHOOL UNI-FORMS TO THE DRY CLEANERS
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? OUR SUMMER UNIFORM IS MADE FROM WASHABLE MATERIAL
ANYWAY, I TOLD YOU THIS THING'S TOP OF THE RANGE
beep
beep
IS THIS YOUR ROOM?
YEAH—
WHAT IS IT?
...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR UNDIES?
MY MUM'LL TAKE CARE OF THE IRONING, SO JUST STICK AROUND A WHILE.

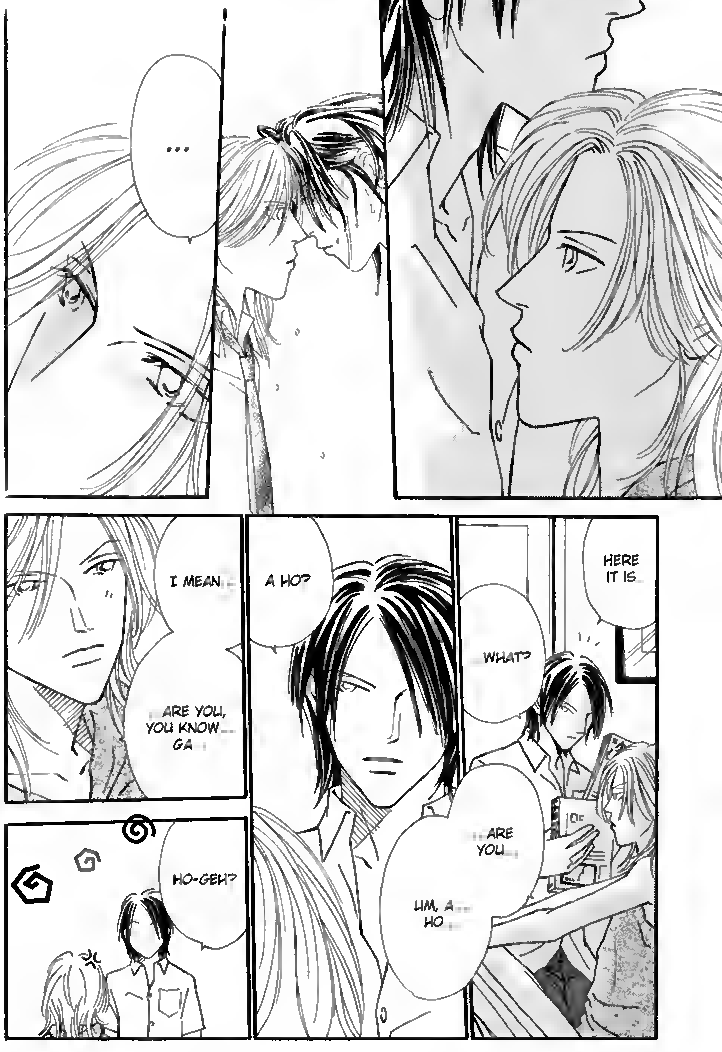
HUH?
UNLESS YOU'VE GONE COMMAN-DO—
OF COURSE I'M WEARING THEM!
SO YOU HAD A DRY PAIR TO CHANGE INTO AT SCHOOL?
I DID, ACTUALLY
YOU ALWAYS HAVE SPARE UNDERWEAR LYING AROUND AT SCHOOL?
SHUT UP!
I HAD A NEW PAIR LEFT OVER FROM TRAIN-ING CAMP, THAT'S ALL—
...
WHAT NOW...?
OH— I WAS JUST THINKING THIS MUST BE WHAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT FEELS LIKE
FUCK YOU!

...
...
SILENCE
kinda awkward
SO... IN THE OLD DAYS YOU USED TO DO BOTH SWIMMING AND ATHLETICS?
Common topic discovered
...
...


IT IS A FACT, NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT
AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT LIKE IT'S A SIMPLE FACT RATHER THAN JUST BRAGGING
AND ALSO FOOTBALL, AND BASE-BALL... I DID ALL SORTS
I ALWAYS EXCELLED AT THEM SO THEY WOULDN'T LET ME QUIT

SILENCE II

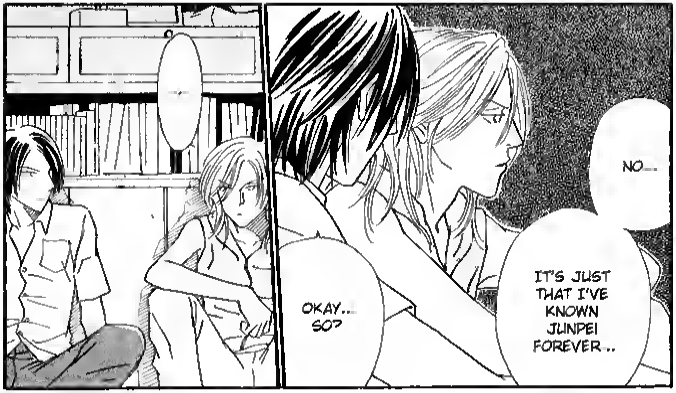
SIGH...
YOU WANT TO READ A MANGA OR MAG OR SOMETHING? THERE'S SOME BEHIND YOU
WHERE IS THE NEWEST ONE...
...THIS ONE I THINK...

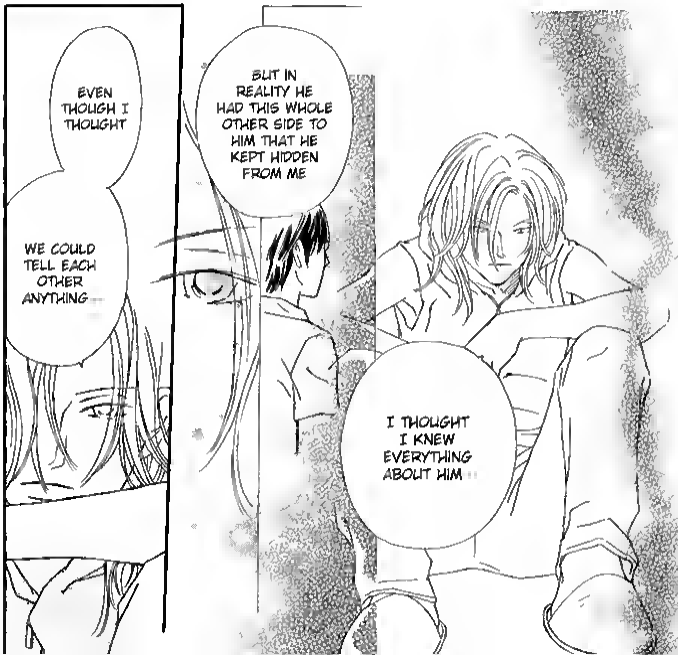

...
I MEAN...
...ARE YOU, YOU KNOW... GA
HO-GEH?
A HO?
HERE IT IS
WHAT?
...ARE YOU...
UM, A HO...

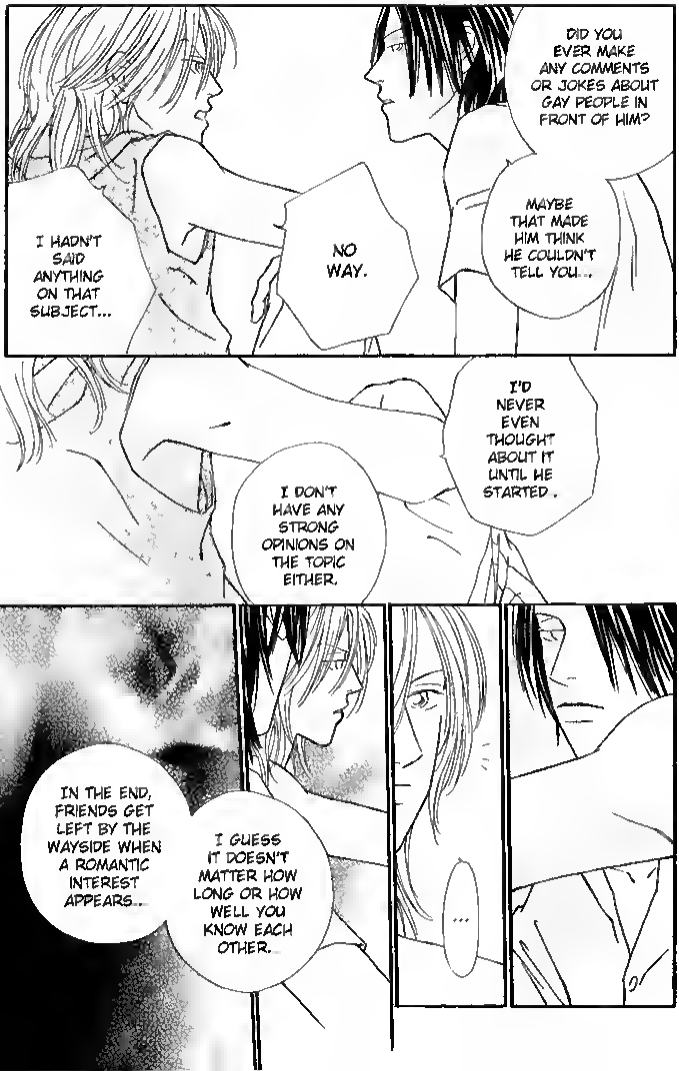
...DO YOU KNOW KOZAKURA? THE GUY IN MY CLUB.
THE HIGH JUMPER, RIGHT?
AND DO YOU KNOW JUNPEI? HIROSAKA JUNPEI... HE'S THE CLUB MANAGER.
OH YEAH, THE ONE WITH THE GLASSES.
THOSE TWO... WELL... THEY'RE A COUPLE.
YEAH, I HEARD A RUMOUR ABOUT THAT.
SO, I THOUGHT IF YOU'RE...
...RIGHT
OH, YOU MEAN AM I GAY TOO?
NO, I'M NOT.

—YOU'RE NOT?
BUT BACK AT THE POOL...
WHAT DID YOU GET SO CLOSE FOR?
THAT WAS...
BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
UP CLOSE.
...
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY...
BESIDES, YOU WERE SO CLOSE YOU COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT A BLUR.
What's your problem?

MAKE YOU NERVOUS OR SOMETHING?
DO I...
SIT
IF YOU REALLY WERE, I JUST HAD SOMETHING TO ASK YOU, THAT'S ALL!
HO-GEH?
I JUST THOUGHT IF YOU REALLY WERE A HO.. HO ..
.. AS IF
...
...DO YOU...
LIKE ONE OF THOSE TWO?
ASK ME WHAT?
YOU ALREADY SAID YOU WEREN'T, DIDN'T YOU?


NO...
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE KNOWN JUNPEI FOREVER..
OKAY... SO?


I THOUGHT I KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM...
BUT IN REALITY HE HAD THIS WHOLE OTHER SIDE TO HIM THAT HE KEPT HIDDEN FROM ME
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT
WE COULD TELL EACH OTHER ANYTHING...


DID YOU EVER MAKE ANY COMMENTS OR JOKES ABOUT GAY PEOPLE IN FRONT OF HIM?
MAYBE THAT MADE HIM THINK HE COULDN'T TELL YOU...
NO WAY.
I HADN'T SAID ANYTHING ON THAT SUBJECT...
I'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT UNTIL HE STARTED.
I DON'T HAVE ANY STRONG OPINIONS ON THE TOPIC EITHER.
...
I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG OR HOW WELL YOU KNOW EACH OTHER.
IN THE END, FRIENDS GET LEFT BY THE WAYSIDE WHEN A ROMANTIC INTEREST APPEARS...

WELL, IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
I KNOW THAT...
...
WHAT...?
HMM?
WHY DO YOU KEEP STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY YOU GAVE ME THE WRONG IMPRESSION!
About being Hogeh?
Drop it

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE LOOKING BACK AT ME NOW THAT YOU'RE NOTICING IT
IT'S A HABIT OF MINE
HUH?
BUT... WHY?
I DON'T KNOW
EVER SINCE STARTING HIGH SCHOOL
EVER SINCE FINDING YOU HERE...

knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
YOU'RE THE BIGGEST MYSTERY I'VE EVER BEEN FACED WITH
up till now
ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME?
NOT AT ALL
THAT COMPETITION I TOLD YOU ABOUT WAS THE ONLY REAL ONE I ENTERED.
I WAS NEVER REALLY THAT MUCH INTO SWIMMING AS A KID
BUT I'D LOOK FOR YOU AT EVERY OTHER COMPETITION THAT I KNEW OF
NOT BEING ABLE TO FORGET YOU FOR SO MANY YEARS
WHEN I'D ONLY SEEN YOU THAT ONE TIME, THAT CAN'T BE NORMAL

I GUESS...
THIS IS YOURSELF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. SHOULDN'T YOU BE A BIT MORE CONCERNED?
...YOU SOUND SO LAID-BACK ABOUT IT.
knead
knead
knead
knead
knead
...
...
TRUE...
HEY... WHAT'S WITH THE DEEP AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION HERE? WE'RE NOT EVEN FRIENDS
YOU DENIED IT EARLIER, BUT MAYBE YOUR FEELINGS FOR JUNPEI-KUN...
ARE WE BACK TO THAT AGAIN?!
-ARE MORE THAN JUST FRIENDSHIP, AND YOU'RE ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH HIM?

.. BUT YOU DON'T LIKE SEEING THEM TOGETHER?
...
MAYBE YOU JUST HAVEN'T REALISED IT YET
NO
THAT'S BECAUSE
JUNPEI JUST DITCHED ME SO SUDDENLY...
EVEN AS A KID HE WASN'T MUCH GOOD AT SPORTS...
BUT HE FOLLOWED ME TO BASEBALL PRACTICE
AND REALLY GAVE IT HIS ALL...
WAS JUST SO HE COULD KEEP SUPPORTING ME.
LIKE WHEN HE TOLD ME THE REASON HE BECAME CLUB MANAGER
.. FOR AGES, WE WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT PRESENCE IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES..

---WHAT THE HELL!?
HUH?
THAT OPENING'S JUST TOO INVITING

...
CAN WE TRY AN EXPERIMENT?
EH...?
FOR YOU AND ME BOTH TO FIND OUT SOME ANSWERS ABOUT OUR-SELVES.

.. YOUR HAIR
hah
IS STILL
DAMP

IT'S TANGLED ROUND MY FINGERS
REALLY TIGHTLY.
I DON'T THINK I CAN LET GO...